

(1)

THE TRUE NARRATIVE

OF THE CONFESSION

AND EXECUTION

Of the PRISONERS at
Kingstone-upon-Thames.

Wednesday the 13th of this Instant March, 1681.

Margaret Osgood Burnt for killing her Husband.

Mary Tro for several Fellonies.

William Abbot.

Abel Hamersly.

Thomas Savionry.

Edward Turner.

William Wyer.

John Bradsham.

Richard Wulson.

For Robbing on the High-way.

For Felony and Burglary.

Being a satisfactory Account of all their Crimes for which
they suffered, the rest being most graciously Reprieved

WITH

An Account of their Deportment in Prison, at the Place of Execution,
with several other remarkable Circumstances.

But more particular of the Confession and Burning of *Margaret Osgood*,
of the Parish of *St. Olives South wark*, for the horrid Murther of her
Husband, on the 21th of *July* last.

Amongst the many and grievous Temptations which
the power of *Darkness* lays as Snares to deceive Souls,
and bring them under his subjection; those jealousies
and discontents are the pronest to work our downfalls, for they
often turn to despair, whereby we make away our selves, and

so inevitably perish or to desperate revenge by which we destroy others the effects of the latter has been amply proved in this Tragical Exploit with which we shall usher in this Scean of Death one *Margaret Osgood*, Wife to *Walter Osgood*, late of the Parish of St. *Olives Southwark*, Hat-maker formerly Wife to one *Thomas Cook*, with whom this latter Husband was Apprentice whom she Married before he was out of his Time; he being Young, and she Stricken in Years immediately discord was so soon between them by the instigation of the Devil which grew to such a height that notwithstanding the Mediation and Persuasion of several Neighbours, they lived as it were in continual brawling for seldom a day or night passed but they had a falling out, which induced him to spend lavishly to keep Horses and Spannels; so that in a short time almost all that her former Husband had left her (which was considerable) was wasted, which caused her for very grief as she has since confessed, to attempt often to make away with her self, but had not power; yet, though the Devil could not bring her to destruction in one way he effected it by an other as prodigious as the former might have been if Acted; which is as followeth. her Husband coming home somewhat late on the 21th of July last, and much in Drink, after some contest she got him to Bed, who presently fell asleep, not dreaming that his Thread of Life was so near Spun, when she approaching the Bedside with a Hatchet (as it is thought her heart being Armed with cruelty) and struck him on the Forehead, such a forcible blow as entered his Skull half an Inch, with that not being satisfied she gave him two mortal wounds, besides one which slit his Nose, and another under the Ears about an Inch deep, nay so far was she transported with revenge and Hellish Rage that whilst he extended his dying Hands for mercy she slit one of them to the Wrist, and as if all this had not been sufficient to give him his Passport in to the other World, she with a Whip-Cord strangled him whilst he lay weltring in his Blood; and then sitting by the Corps good part of the Night, when Day appeared she was Apprehended to the *Marshalsea* Prison where she remained very careless and negligent of her futer state, till she was carried in a Wagon among the other Prisoners to *Kingstone-upon-Thames*, to be tried at the Assizes holden there for the County of *Surry*, which began on Monday the 8th of this instant *March*, and ended on *Thursday* 11th; where upon her Trial being asked what she could say for her self, she alledged she was not (*Compes Mentis*) but Distracted when she committed the horrid Fact; but Mr. *Fowler* and several others who saw her the Morning after the Fact was committed; deposed upon Oath that she was as at other times and they saw no Distraction in her whereupon not being able to make any farther Defence the Jury after having received their charge, brought her in guilty of Treason and Murther, the which in case of a Wifes Murthering her Husband, the Law implyes, after which she received the dreadful Sentence to be Burnt alive, and was conveyed to the Town Prison there to remain in order to her Execution, where during the intervene of the time allowed to make preparation for another World she seemed as it were stupified with the horror of guilt; sometimes she would applause her cruelty, saying, She did not repent her of what she had done, for he had brought her to want by his Extravagancies; and at other times she would fall out into a passion, and say, it was Gods just Judgement by suffering her to run into such evil to punish her for being so wicked to her first Husband whose Bed she had suffered the latter to defile whilst the former was alive; and that she had been a grievous Offender both against God and Man; not only the Minister of the Place, but several other pious and Charitable Christians came often to visit her and give her Saving advice to prepare for Immortality, intimating that she had but a short time to live on Earth, and that Murther bore such a lasting Stain, that nothing but the blood of her Sacred Redeemer could cleanse her polluted Soul, to which she answered she was sorry for the Murther; but were her Husband now alive she would rather be Burnt according to Sentence than to live with him, and so continued sometimes resolute and sometimes Penitent till the Day appointed for her Execution.

(3)

Execution came, which was the 16th of this Instant *March*; when being brought out of the Prison, clad almost all in White to the Market Place, or Place appointed for Execution, were being fastened to a Stake, Three Loads of Fagots were piled that she seemed as one half dead; all that she was heard to say, was to desire the People to pray for her, and to take warning by her sad End; after her being there near half an hour, the Executioner set Fire to the Pile, which taking reduced the miserable Wretch. It is said during her Imprisonment she did what she could to be got with Child, thereby to respit her Execution, but her expectation failed her, for she proved not pregnant.

Eight more that received Sentence were Executed at the Gallows, being Hanged by their Necks, whose Names, Crimes and Behaviours were as followeth.

Mary Trot a Notorious Offender, who had been in several Robberys, and been once before Condemned for the same; having likewise been a Publick Seller of stolen goods, was taken from the Prison and carried to the place of Execution; she seem'd very obstinate, and not in the least concern'd for her latter End, till the very last when Death's approach made her relent to think how she was entring on a state she was so ill prepared for.

William Abbot was likewise Sentenced for that he Robed *Dover* Carryer in the middle of *Kent-street*, between Four and Five of the Clock in the Morning of Silks and other Goods to the vallue of 200 Pounds; he had been tryed at the *O'd-Bayly* the last Sessions, and Condemned there, where he had obtained a Pardon for the particular Fact, for which he was there Condemned, but no other, so the Carryer appearing at the *Old Bayly* the Court Ordered him to Confess where the goods were, which he refusing he was Ordered to be sent to *King-stone* to be Tried there, and being Cast, this Day suffered; his Penitence was suitable in some measures to his many Crimes, for he was more then ordinary Penitent much bewailing his Crimes and desiring all to take warning by his sad downfall.

William

William Wiser and *John Bradshaw* were condemned for breaking open the House of one *William Turner* in September last, and stealing thence Cloth to a considerable value, for which they were this Day Executed and dyed with great penitency desiring the company assembled to view their fatal Ends, to direct their Prayers to Almighty God for their deliverance from a second Death.

Able Hamerly and *Thomas Savoury* suffered for the same Part as *Abbot* did; And were exceeding penitent, it being thought it was the first Robbery they ever committed.

Richard Wilson was Condemned for that he in February last, broak open the House of one *Mr. Turner* in *Spaulparks* and accordingly to Sentence was Executed.

The last in this fatal Tragedy, was *Edward Turner* for breaking the House of *Thomas Stainton* in *Barnardsey Street*, and stealing Linnen and wearing Apparel to the value of Five pounds, they were both very Penitent, as indeed they were for the most part heartily lamenting their woful conditions, and begging Pardon of God for their offences, after a short Prayer, they ended their lives.

William Wiser was a little sentenced for that he broke open the House of one *Mr. Turner* in *Spaulparks* and accordingly to Sentence was Executed.

The last in this fatal Tragedy, was *Edward Turner* for breaking the House of *Thomas Stainton* in *Barnardsey Street*, and stealing Linnen and wearing Apparel to the value of Five pounds, they were both very Penitent, as indeed they were for the most part heartily lamenting their woful conditions, and begging Pardon of God for their offences, after a short Prayer, they ended their lives.

LONDON, Printed by D. Mallet. 1681.

William Wiser was a little sentenced for that he broke open the House of one *Mr. Turner* in *Spaulparks* and accordingly to Sentence was Executed.

The last in this fatal Tragedy, was *Edward Turner* for breaking the House of *Thomas Stainton* in *Barnardsey Street*, and stealing Linnen and wearing Apparel to the value of Five pounds, they were both very Penitent, as indeed they were for the most part heartily lamenting their woful conditions, and begging Pardon of God for their offences, after a short Prayer, they ended their lives.